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GRAMMAR FEATURES OF ACADEMIC WRITING IN MEDICAL ENGLISH: TENSE CHOICE IN RESEARCH ARTICLES

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Academic writing in English possesses a number of features and norms that are different from those of Ukrainian [1; 2; 3; 4]. Therefore, it is crucial for medical professionals to master the skills of academic writing in English to be able to produce effective English language discourse and thus share their knowledge and findings with fellow researchers from all over the world [6]. The aim of this paper is to examine the grammar features of research articles (RAs) which may cause difficulties for non-native speakers of English. The findings of our analysis are represented in Table 1.

Table 1

Tense choice in research articles

Structural elements of research	Tense(s)	Examples
Introduction	Present simple tense	Diabetes mellitus is a group of diseases associated with metabolic disorders <...> Its pathogenesis involves both genetic and environmental factors. The long-term persistence of metabolic disorders can cause susceptibility to specific complications and also foster arteriosclerosis.

Relevance and novelty	Present perfect tense	Later prospective studies <u>have proved</u> that lowering this trigger to $10 \times 10^9/L$ in stable patients with cancer is still safe. <...> Some case reports <u>have described</u> platelet normalization <...> Other authors <u>have noted</u> that the latency period ranges from 3.5 to 33 years.
Methods	Past simple tense	We <u>studied</u> the effects of a melatonin-aluminum oxide-polymethylsiloxane complex (complex M) on the expression of apoptosis regulators. <...> We <u>examined</u> clinical outcomes in 8399 patients with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction according to history of diabetes mellitus and glycemic status. Patients with a history of diabetes mellitus <u>had</u> a higher risk of the primary composite outcome of heart failure. The benefit of valsartan compared with enalapril <u>was</u> consistent across the range of HbA1c in the trial.
Diagrams and figures	Present simple tense	Table 1 above <u>demonstrates</u> the success of cloning in various animal species. Figure 2 below <u>shows</u> methylation in mouse 2-cell embryos.
Results	Past simple tense	Overall, 2907 patients <u>had</u> a history of diabetes mellitus. Results <u>indicated</u> that the median follow-up in patients with normal HbA1c <u>was</u> 26 months, and it <u>was</u> 27 months in both patients with pre-diabetes mellitus and diabetes mellitus.
Discussion	Present simple tense	This study <u>has</u> 3 key findings. First, although <u>it is known</u> that the prevalence of diabetes mellitus is high in patients with HF-REF, it <u>seems</u> that both pre-diabetes mellitus and undiagnosed diabetes mellitus <u>are</u> also common in these patients. Second, non-diabetic dysglycemia <u>is associated</u> with a substantially increased risk of adverse outcomes.
Conclusion	A combination of tenses	Recent interventional trials <u>have shown</u> that lifestyle modifications and/or antidiabetic medications have metabolic benefits, such as reducing postpartum diabetes, but these interventions <u>were</u> not as effective as they <u>were</u> in the non-gravid population. Type 2 diabetes mellitus <u>is</u> still rare in childhood and adolescence, but recent reports <u>indicate</u> an increasing prevalence around the world possibly due to increasing prevalence of obesity in children and adolescents. <u>It is becoming</u> increasingly clear that obese children and adolescents with clinical signs of insulin resistance <u>should be screened</u> for type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Thus, the proposed system of organizing the material aims to facilitate memorizing of grammar structures and avoiding errors in their use. The results of the

research have been integrated into the 1st edition of *Medical English for Academic Purposes* (by Yu. Lysanets, O. Bieliaieva, M. Melaschenko) [5], which focuses on improving the writing skills in RAs. The study of potential difficulties, which Ukrainian medical professionals may face in the process of writing English RAs, is important for developing the guidelines to eliminate possible mistakes and avoid misunderstanding in medical communication. It is crucial for medical professionals to be aware of peculiarities of academic writing in English so that they are able to produce effective RAs which will be accepted by peer-reviewed journals.

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